



Photograph by: Arsen Merabyan

## Eastern Turkey Tours

# Twin Peaks: From Aragats to Ararat

### Legend about Aragats and Ararat Mountains

Once upon a time Aragats and Ararat Mountains were very lovely sisters. One day they argued. One said to the other: "I'm better and higher than you are", the other said: "No; I am better, higher and bigger than you are". Maruta Mountain came and tried to make peace between the sisters, but had no success. He went away and cursed them, so Aragats and Ararat separated from each other forever, never to meet again. Ararat cursed Aragats so

that all year around grief remained in her heart and tears stayed in her eyes. Aragats on her side cursed Ararat so that nobody in the world would ascend the peak of Ararat to make sacrifice to God.

Since then a lake of tears appeared on top of Aragats and till today no animal has been sacrificed on Ararat.

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The Pagan Temple at Garni

## Day 1

Arrival. Meeting and transfer to a hotel in Yerevan. Bus transfer to Garni village to visit Garni pagan temple (1st cent. B.C.) Start hiking from the temple and descending to Azat gorge, seeing basalt stone symphony. Then bus transfer to the biggest rock-cut monastery in Armenia, to Geghard monastery. Both, the temple and the monastery are situated in the gorge of Azat river, and have marvellous view to the gorge. Transfer to Yerevan. Lunch in a restaurant in Yerevan. Hiking-4km. Duration- 2 hour. Overnight in the hotel 3\* in Yerevan.

## Day 2

Visit Ashtarak city - drive to the "Kari Lake", which is situated beneath the South summit of mount Aragats, at an altitude of 3200m. Short hiking from Stone Lake to the crest of South summit and back to Stone Lake. Hiking 5 km. Duration 3 hours. Overnight in tents.

## Day 3

Climbing the North summit of mount Aragats (4090m), the highest peak in Armenia and also in Small Caucasus. Back to Stone Lake. Hiking 15km, 9 hours. Overnight in tents.

## Day 4

Hiking from the Lake to Amberd fortress. Lunch near fortress. Transfer to Gyumri city. Free time. Hiking 15km.

Duration 4 hours. Overnight in the hotel 3\* in Gyumri.

## Day 5

Start early in the morning for Transfer to Dogubeyazit (Turkey) via Georgia. Overnight in the hotel 3\*.

## Day 6

Transfer from Dogubayazit to 2200m by truck at 8 am, ascent to 3200m (1st camp, 4 hours). We pitch tents and hot food is served for dinner.

## Day 7

Acclimatisation day. We start in the morning at 9 am, ascent to 4200m (2nd camp, 4 hours). After a short rest, we return to the 1st camp where hot food is served for dinner.

## Day 8

Start in the morning at 8 am, ascent to the 2nd camp at 4200m (4 hours). The afternoon is spent with relaxation and preparing for the ascent to the summit the following day. Hot food is served for dinner.

## Day 9

Start at 2 am, climb up to the summit (5137m). Depending on snow conditions, crampons may be need-





Mt Ararat

ed for the last 200 meters. We reach the summit by about 8 am. We return to the 2nd camp, where hot soup and tea is served. After some rest, we pack the tents and return to the 1st camp to spend the night there. Dinner at the 1st camp.

### Day 10

Descent from the 1st camp to car pick-up point, return to Dogubayazit by truck. Stay overnight in Dogubeyazit in Hotel. 3 star Hotel

### Day 11

Transfer to Van. Visit Van Lake and Akhtamar Island. Overnight in Van. Buyuk Urartu Hotel 4 star.

### Day 12

Flight to Istanbul. Departure.

### Necessary equipment:

Backpack for equipment and clothes, day-bag for the hikes, hiking boots, head lights, warm and waterproof clothes, pocket knife, sun glasses. If you bring your own sleeping bag, choose a good 3-season one (0°C). Weather may be chilly at 4200m, and you can expect temperatures between 0 and -15°C on the summit. If you don't bring your own tents and sleeping bags we can provide them for you with prior notice.



The 3000 year old Urartian citadel atop Van castle rock overlooking the city and the lake.

### Prices include:

Permission for Ararat per person 50 USD or 40 Euros, all transportation by bus, according to the program, all overnight stops as per program, English speaking guides services, Mountain guides services, FB. Prices exclude: Flights, alcoholic beverages and soft drinks.

### Alkans Tour Travel Agency

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